

I read an article in the Atlanta newspaper this morning that the FCC was fining a reality show because of a simulated sexual act. (I believe a Fox show that featured a Bachelor party where there were strippers.) And, of course, there's the infamous Janet Jackson wardrobe malfunction/breast debacle.

I'd like to state that I think you should spend less time worrying whether Americans might be subjected to harmless nudity and more time worrying about the media's abuse of power for political purpose that is inherent in Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.